

REMARKS

Claims 9, 13, 14 and 17-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the drawings are corrected pursuant to the attached annotated drawing sheets, and claims 9 and 18 are amended. No new matter is added by any of these amendments.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 13, 14 and 17 are allowed. However, Applicants assert that claims 9, 18 and 19 are also allowable for the reasons discussed below.

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Drawings Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the drawings, specifically Figs. 1 and 5, based on informalities and requires both to be submitted for approval. Attached are corrected Figs. 1 and 5 for approval with annotations marked in red (either ink or highlight). Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 9, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, based on lack of enablement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9 and 18 have been amended to obviate this rejection in view of the Examiner's helpful comments. Subject matter to which claims 9, 18 and 19 pertain is supported in the substitute specification at page C-13, line 4 – page C-14, line 5 filed August 20, 2002.

In particular these features include “the first and second separators are in contact with the divided electrode plates, respectively at their conductive projections, and the current-collecting plates each are divided into a second plurality of spaced plates, respectively in contact with the first and second separators”, as recited in claim 9. Also, these features include “the current-collecting plates each are divided into a second plurality of spaced plates placed, respectively in contact with the first and second separators”, as recited in claim 18. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 18 has been amended to obviate this rejection in view of the Examiner's helpful comments. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GWT/gwt

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Annotated Marked-Up Drawing Sheets (Figs. 1 and 5)

Date: July 30, 2004

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Fig. 1 (PRIOR ART)

